

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 19-22 are pending, of which claims 1 and 6 are independent. Claims 12-18 are withdrawn, and claim 22 is new. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5 and 20-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dalnodar (US 5,504,400). Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to recite that the circuit array includes "a phase detection ... to output a logical detection signal that is based on whether the phase is positive or negative; and a logical unit to generate the switch control signal based on one or more logical load control signals and the logical detection signal." In contrast, to the claimed logical load control signals, Dalnodar discloses an analog load signal generated by a potentiometer. In this respect Dalnodar states:

"Current will therefore flow through the potentiometer VR11 and the resistance of the potentiometer VR11 will control the charge rate of the capacitor C1. If the potentiometer VR11 is set to its maximum value, then the current charging the capacitor will be at its minimum value. As a result, the voltage v_c will be insufficient to break down the diac DC1, and the triac T1 will not be switched into conduction." (Dalnodar, col. 5 line 65 - col. 6, line 4).

As such, in contrast to the applicant's claimed logical signals, in Dalnodar the load control signal delivered by the potentiometer is analog. Therefore, Applicant requests the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Claims 6, 9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Peil (US 4,560,909).

Applicant has amended independent claim 6 to recite an electronic device that includes "a circuit array for controlling a switch to apply voltage to first and second loads based on whether a phase of the AC voltage is positive or negative and logical load control signals generated

separately for the first and second loads.” In contrast, Peil discloses “a manually adjustable phase shift network including the manually variable resistor 20, and a capacitor 21.” (Peil, col. 4 lines 4-6). Describing the function of the phase shift network Peil states:

“The output of the phase shift network available at the interconnected terminals of 20 and 21 is coupled via the diac 19 to the triac 18, as earlier noted. The diac is bidirectionally conductive, breaking down in either direction, when a predetermined breakdown voltage is exceeded. Assuming that the voltage produced in the phase shift network momentarily exceeds that required to break down the diac, a trigger voltage will be coupled to the triac causing it to conduct as some point in the ac wave. Conduction by the diac 19 partially discharges the capacitor 21 into the gate of the triac 18.” (Peil, col. 5 lines 27-38)

In contrast to the applicant's claim logical signals, in Peil the load control signal is delivered by a manually variable resistor and is therefore an analog signal. Therefore, Applicant requests that the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection of claim 6 be withdrawn.

Claims 4, 6-11 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dalnodar. As discussed above in the remarks for claim 1, Dalnodar fails to disclose or suggest logical load control signals as recited in claim 6. Therefore, Applicant requests the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of claim 6 be withdrawn.

Each of the dependent claims is believed to define patentable features of the invention. Each dependent claim partakes of the novelty of its corresponding independent claim, in light of the foregoing amendments, and, as such, has not been discussed specifically herein.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or

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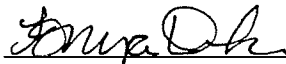
other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayment to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 14603-0009US1.

Respectfully submitted,

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